

REMARKS

Claims 10-14 were rejected. Claims 10-14 are cancelled. Claims 15-17 are added, which are disclosed by Figs. 6-8 and their accompanying discussions. No new matter is added. Claims 15-17 are now pending. The above amendments and the following remarks are considered by Applicants to overcome each rejection raised by the Examiner and to place the application in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claims 10-14 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abe (U.S. Pat. No. 5,095,382) in view of Pinel (U.S. Pat. No. 5,931,683). As stated above, Applicants have cancelled claims 10-14 and added claims 15-17. For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Abe and Pinel do not render claims 15-17 obvious.

Abe discloses a wireless headphone system having a charging system with supply terminals 7a and 7b. The two supply terminals project outwardly from recess-shaped concave portion 6 of the housing. The wireless headphone comprises through-holes 24a and 24b and corresponding charging terminals 23a and 23b. As depicted in Fig. 6, the headband is resting in the recess and terminals 7a and 7b extend via through-holes 24a and 24b to contact electrical contacts 23a and 23b.

Pinel discloses a telephone with a charging station and a handset. The handset comprises electrical charging contacts and a magnet 23 associated to the electrical contact 9. The charging station comprises an element 21 which is coupled to an elastic plate 16 which allows a horizontal movement. When the handset is placed onto the charging station, the magnet 23 attracts the mobile contact element 21 such that an electrical contact is achieved.

The cited references, however, do not disclose the following limitation of independent claim 15:

a charging station for the wireless headphone having a housing and at least two bars projecting out of the housing, wherein the bars comprise a first and second end, wherein the first end is coupled to the housing and wherein the second end comprises a rigid and substantially horizontal section for receiving the headband of the wireless headphone, wherein the bars serve as an electrical feed line, and wherein the horizontal section comprises electrical contacts for electrically contacting the electrical charging contacts in the headphone band.

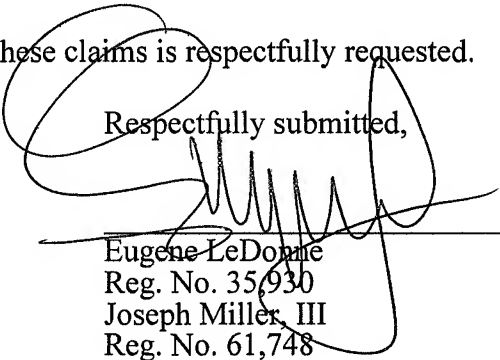
The cited references also fail to disclose the similar limitation of independent claim 17: “the second end comprises a rigid and substantially horizontal section for receiving the headband of the wireless headphone” Abe does not disclose that the headband of the headphone is received by a substantially horizontal section of bars projecting from the housing of the charging station, nor that the bars serve as an electrical feed line. Instead, Abe’s headband of the headphone is received by the recess in the housing of the charging station. Pinel also fails to disclose this limitation. Thus, even if the references were combined, one would not arrive at the invention of claims 15, 16, or 17.

Further, it would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Abe and Pinel. If Pinel’s elastic plate 16 and mobile contact element 21 were arranged in the housing of Abe’s charging station according to Abe, this would not necessarily lead to a working wireless headphone system. According to Abe, terminals 7a and 7b must project into the recess of the housing while Pinel’s mobile contact element 21 remains in a hole of the housing of the charging system.

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the invention of claims 15-17. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

An early action on the merits of these claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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